

Tower Grove Park Shelter Twenty-two
(Sons of Rest Shelter)
Tower Grove Park
4255 Arsenal Street
St. Louis
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1137-Q

HABS
MO.
96-SALV.
46Q-

PHOTOGRAPHS
REDUCED COPY OF MEASURED DRAWING
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

HABS
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. MO-1137-Q

TOWER GROVE PARK SHELTER TWENTY-TWO
(Sons of Rest Shelter)

Location:

Park headquarters at 4255 Arsenal Street, St. Louis, Missouri. The shelter lies 400' west of Grand Boulevard gate, on the south side of the main east-west drive, within the original boundaries of Tower Grove Park.

USGS Cahokia Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 15.740040.4276300

Present Owner:

City of St. Louis.

Present Use:

Public picnic shelter.

Significance:

The structure is a well-preserved example of the picturesque and eclectic design favored by British and American landscape architects in the nineteenth century. One of the largest of the Park shelters, it has a Greek cross plan and a large variety of sawn wooden decoration on the gable ends.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Fall 1871-Spring 1872 (Board Minutes 1/31/72, p.27).
2. Architect: Eugene L. Greenleaf (Mss. of Board Reports, 1/31/72, pp.25-27). For biographical information, see the HABS report on Tower Grove Park (MO.-1137).
3. Original and subsequent owners: The City of St. Louis. For property description, see the HABS report on Tower Grove Park (MO-1137).
4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: The contractors were Beck and Cox, who charged \$2160 (Tower Grove Park Comptroller's Report 1868, p.144, 1/22/1872). Albert Vosse, Claus Hasselbusch, Josiah Lauten, and two others did the actual carpentry work (Tower Grove Park Receipts and Vouchers 12/1871-1/1872). Scrollwork was milled and supplied by Evers and Co's Sash and Blind Factory in St. Louis (TGP Receipts and Vouchers, 12/71-1/72). Other lumber was supplied by C. E. and J. W. Peck, Eau Claire, W. L. Bingham, Marshall Botherton, and Theo. Strauss, all of St. Louis (TGP Receipts and Vouchers, 12/71-1/72). Hull and Cozzens, another local firm, supplied the galvanized iron roof for \$375 and the ornaments -- now removed -- for \$43 (Comp. 1868, p.172, 4/11/72). The structure was originally painted by J.A. Jackett and Co., for \$225 (Comp. 1868, p.172, 6/6/72).

5. Original plans, construction, etc: In a note to Shaw on January 18, 1872, architect Greenleaf explained that the change in the main roof from plain pitched to curved was requested by the supervisor during the course of construction and would cost \$185 (TGP Receipts and Vouchers, 12/71-1/72).
6. Additions and alterations: The iron roof ridge ornament and filigreed cusp work have been removed, dates unknown. Probably little of the original wooden fabric remains due to innumerable repairs and replacement of rotted members.

B. Sources of Information:

1. Old views: A view was published by MacAdam in 1883, showing the northeast corner of the pavilion with the ridge and cusp ornamentation still in place. (See HABS photocopy).

2. Bibliography:

a. Primary and unpublished sources:

1. Manuscripts, etc.: Tower Grove Park Receipts and Vouchers from 1867-1889; the Reports of the Board of Commissioners from 1869-1898; and Henry Shaw's Comptroller's Report Books 1868, 1875, 1882, and 1888 are in the custody of Park Superintendent Miss Bernice E. Gurney, and will probably be transferred from her office at 4274 Magnolia Avenue to the Shaw Manuscript Collection in the John S. Lehmann Library at the Missouri Botanical Garden, 2345 Tower Grove Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri, by the end of the summer of 1974.

2. Secondary Sources:

Annual Report of the Board of Commissioners Tower Grove Park.
St. Louis: Nixon-Jones Printing, 1899-1919.

_____. St. Louis: Arcade Print Shop, 1920.

_____. St. Louis: Mound City Press, 1921-1942.

_____. St. Louis: Allied Printing, 1943-1959.

MacAdam, David H. Tower Grove Park. St. Louis: R.P. Studley and Co., 1883.

Prepared by: Carolyn Hamm
Field Historian
National Park Service
St. Louis, Missouri
July, 1979

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION:

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This, one of the largest of the ornamental Park shelters, has a Greek cross plan. It has pitched and curved roofs carried by a decorated arcade. The large shaded floor space permits ample room for relaxation and large gatherings.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Greek cross shape, 58'-4" (nine-bay east front) by 32'-9" (five-bay flank) 20'-6" high at center bay, transepts 14'-2" high.
2. Foundations: The piers rest on square blocks of black stone.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Thirty carved and ornamental cedar piers painted black carry round arches painted white. The bays are 5'-3" wide and 8'-6" high on the transepts and 6'-4" wide and 12'-9" high on the center sections. A frieze of lattice work runs above the arches and below the fascia beam of the center. The spandrels are jig-sawn. Pendants with egg-shaped ends surmounted by molding are in the center of each span.
4. Structural system: Wooden framing.
5. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: The central section has a curved standing-seam metal roof bent over gable-pitched roof rafters; the flanking or transept sections have standing seam gable roofs covered with gray metal roofing.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: There is an overhang, 4'-10" wide, under which are elaborately carved brackets with pendants and a row of widely spaced modillions. There are green carved rosettes above the pendants and piers on the fascia beam.
 - c. Gable ends: The pediments on all four ends are the same and are decorated with gilded grill work. The pediments are broken into three sections, the center one of which is extended by brackets with pendants and has a plain entablature running between the brackets, surmounted by a central circular motif, itself flanked by symmetrical floral motifs. Below this entablature and to either side of the brackets, the grillwork has alternating vertical lozenge and sunburst motifs, arranged in rows on the north and south ends. A curved roof is laid over the pediment ends, and the space between the two is filled with openwork in a pattern of diminishing circles.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plan: Greek cross, open plan; central section 32' x 22'; transepts 15' x 18'-2".
2. Wall and ceiling finish: The ceiling is of wooden panels painted blue. There is a gilded panel on the upper spandrel of the central aisle.
3. Decorative features: Several types of brackets are recorded in HABS drawings. These are handsaw-cut with pendants.

- D. Site: The central aisle is aligned east-west, the transepts north-south. The shelter lies 400' west of the Grand Boulevard gate, its north flank facing the south side of the main east-west gate.

Prepared by: Peter Dessauer
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National Park Service
St. Louis, Missouri
Summer, 1975

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

The Tower Grove Park and Missouri Botanical Garden Project was jointly sponsored by the Historic American Buildings Survey of the National Park Service, the Board of Commissioners of Tower Grove Park, and the Board of Trustees of the Missouri Botanical Gardens.

Recorded under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, and Kenneth L. Anderson, HABS Principal Architect, the project was conducted during the summer of 1974 and 1975 at the Historic American Buildings Survey field office at the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis.

1974 Team: Robert Harvey, Project Supervisor, (Landscape Architect); Steven Bauer, Project Foreman, architect, (University of Kansas); Carolyn Hamm, project historian, (Cornell University); Patrick Ackerman, student assistant architect, (Washington University); Suzanne Fauber, student assistant landscape architect, (University of Virginia); and Carol Macht, student assistant landscape architect, (University of Michigan).

1975 Team: Stuart Mertz, A.S.L.A., project supervisor, (landscape architect); Steven Bauer, Project Foreman, (Columbia University); Peter Dessauer, project historian, (Clemson University); Lennard A. Roberts, student assistant architect, (Cornell University); John R. Temmink, student assistant architect, (University of Virginia); and Theodore Torpy, landscape architect, (WASO).

The drawings were revised by HABS architect Paul Dolinsky, and the written data were edited by HABS Architectural Historian Denys Peter Myers, in the HABS Washington office in 1983. The photographs were taken by HABS/HAER Photographer Jet Lowe in 1983.